



*Making Wellness &
Safety Happen*

Report to the Legislature

Information Systems Under Development

**December
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**Wisconsin Department of Health and Family
Services**

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Table Of Contents

INTRODUCTION	2
DIVISION OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES.....	3
WISCONSIN STATEWIDE AUTOMATED CHILD WELFARE INFORMATION SYSTEM (WISACWIS)	3
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH.....	4
HEALTH ALERT NETWORK (HAN) / NATIONAL ELECTRONIC DISEASE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (NEDSS).....	4
WISCONSIN ASBESTOS AND LEAD DATABASE ONLINE (WALDO)	5

Introduction

This document summarizes the major information systems currently under development by the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS). As required by section 46.03(26) of the Statutes, the report contains the following, as appropriate, for each project under development:

- The implementation schedule;
- Estimates of costs; and
- Methods of determining charges (if applicable).

A brief description of each system, key milestone dates, and cost estimates are provided.

Methods of Determining Charges

In-house systems development and computer center activities supporting DHFS are program revenue service operations charged to program areas on a unit rate basis. The rates are uniform for all customers and reflect the cost of providing services. Computer charges and application development rates are approved by the DHFS Secretary and by Region V of the federal Department of Health and Human Services.

Competitive procurement processes and subsequent contract negotiations determine charges by application development vendors. The Wisconsin Department of Electronic Government and federal funding agencies provide oversight of major system developments in DHFS.

Division of Children and Family Services

Wisconsin Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (WiSACWIS)

The Department has undertaken development and implementation of a comprehensive child protective services information system for Milwaukee and all other Wisconsin counties. The system meets Federal reporting requirements defined by SACWIS regulations, assists the Department in meeting the requirements of Wisconsin Act 303, which mandated the State's assumption of child welfare responsibilities in Milwaukee County and, automates child welfare practice standards across all counties.

In 1998, a Phase 1 Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued and a vendor was selected for both the functional development of the statewide system and to complete the implementation of WiSACWIS in Milwaukee County by January 1, 2001.

In May 2001, the state completed the procurement process and selected a vendor to begin the statewide rollout of WiSACWIS to the remaining 71 counties. Under current statutes the system is to be implemented by SFY-2005 however, the Department is undertaking an accelerated schedule and will complete statewide implementation by June 2004. As of February 2003, twenty-nine counties will be in production with approximately 2200 child welfare caseworkers using the system on a statewide basis.

The cost of the vendor contract for the statewide implementation of WiSACWIS is approximately \$23.5 million. Enhanced federal funding is available and a methodology for state and county cost sharing has been determined.

Division of Public Health

Health Alert Network (HAN) / National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS)

The public health system, along with the health services sector, must be prepared to rapidly detect and respond to weapons of mass destruction, bioterrorism, other infectious disease outbreaks, and other public health threats and emergencies. To do this effectively, the Health Alert Network (HAN) has been designed to rapidly detect, analyze and learn, and respond to public health emergencies.

Through state-of-the-art Web resources, the Wisconsin HAN interconnects all functional units: state and local public health and their partners, emergency responders and managers, laboratories, hospitals and clinics, emergency rooms, law enforcement, and the public. In a secure environment, it provides alert messaging, information access and exchange, and integrates on-line public health surveillance systems under the National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS) initiative. By doing this, it provides a dynamic, comprehensive, real-time view of the health status of Wisconsin's communities and relays this view to our state and federal partners. This electronic nervous system interconnects and supports the functions of all the bioterrorism focus areas: Planning and Preparedness, Epidemiology and Surveillance, Laboratory, Public Communications, Education and Training, and the Health Resources and Services Administration hospital initiative.

HAN provides advanced information technology resources - developed by the University of Wisconsin Division of Information Technology - for Wisconsin's public health system. These resources support communications, data analysis, and public health response during public health threats or emergencies. Key activities in this first year include:

- Communications Technology - assuring high speed Internet connectivity; routine use of the Web and for notification of alerts and other critical communication; creating a directory of public health participants, their roles, and contact information covering all local jurisdictions.
- Emergency Communications - creating an automated, redundant multi channel (email, voicemail, fax, text pager, etc.) communications system for public health emergencies
- Protection of Data and Information Systems - for continuity of operations, to ensure that sensitive or critical electronic information and systems are not lost, destroyed, misappropriated or corrupted.
- Secure Electronic Exchange of Public Health Information - such as clinical, laboratory, environmental, and other public health information in standard formats between the computer systems of public health partners – and support of National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS) disease surveillance programs
- Support of Emergency Response Management - by providing online emergency response management systems to aid the deployment and support of response teams, the management of response resources, and the facilitation of inter-organizational communication and coordination.
- Information Technology Support and Service - including modern software development practices, user support practices (network, desktop, application), and ongoing monitoring and maintenance of systems.

This project is federally funded.

Total HAN budget for June 2002 – August 2003: \$2,348,148

Total NEDSS budget for September 2002 – June 2003: \$312,000

Wisconsin Asbestos and Lead Database Online (WALDO)

The Wisconsin Asbestos and Lead Database Online (WALDO) software development project is mandated by Wisconsin 1999 Assembly Bill 806 Act 113 Section 27 (254.179.1,d,e), Section 32.2,3,4,5, and Section 33.2 (Lead-Free/Lead-Safe Certificate Registry). The mandate requires the development of a lead-free/lead-safe property registry database for the entire State. To ensure the integration of the new registry with existing Asbestos and Lead Section regulation and certification business functions, the WALDO project also incorporates the business functionality of the previous WALIN (Wisconsin Asbestos and Lead Information Network) DataEase database system.

Data is entered into WALDO's Oracle database via the Internet, so any person given access may directly enter information. This means that certified lead companies, after appropriate training and authorization by the State, directly enter the data necessary to complete the real-time registration of properties in the Lead-Free/Lead-Safe Registry.

WALDO was deployed on July 1, 2001, at a cost of \$450,000. WALDO initially was limited to use by staff in the DHFS Asbestos and Lead Section. The Lead-Free/Lead-Safe Registry was delayed until March 1, 2002, when the permanent rule for the Lead-Free/Lead-Safe Registry was finalized. Between July 1, 2001, and March 1, 2002, the need for revisions was identified to improve functionality, remedy migration problems, complete deliverables, and to comply with ongoing rule revisions. Work on these revisions is ongoing.

In March and April 2002, the Asbestos and Lead Section provided training for certified (licensed) lead investigators on the issuance of certificates of lead-free and lead-safe status and registration of the certificates using semi-public (secured access) WALDO. Based on comments from the regulated industry and experience working with semi-public and public WALDO, it was determined that further refinements were needed. Further, it was decided that work on semi-public WALDO needed to be done before work on public WALDO. The Lead-Free/Lead-Safe Registry public view could temporarily be maintained on the DHFS Web site. Therefore, the public version of WALDO is not available until all semi-public WALDO refinements are completed.

In order to improve customer service, DHFS has identified additional development to be done as funds become available, such as the ability to determine a person's certification status using public WALDO. Some of the projects identified, such as online submission by the regulated community of renewal applications and for notification of planned work, might also decrease reliance on State staff for currently extensive entry of data.